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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS (DALLAS)

IN RE:

. Case No. 22-31641-MVL-7

GOODMAN NETWORKS, INC., AND

GOODMAN NETWORKS, INC. DBA GOODMAN SOLUTIONS, U.S. Bankruptcy Court1100 Commerce Street . Dallas, Texas 75242

Debtor. . Wednesday, December 4, 2024 2:00 P.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY FILED BY TRUSTEE SCOTT M. SEIDEL (618)

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHELLE V. LARSON UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES ON NEXT PAGE.

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APPEARANCES:

For the Trustee: Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC

> BY: THOMAS DANIEL BERGHMAN, ESQUIRE 500 North Akard Street, Suite 3800

Dallas, Texas 75201

Wick Phillips Gould & Martin, LLP For James Frinzi:

BY: JASON RUDD, ESQUIRE

3131 McKinney Avenue, Suite 500

Dallas, Texas 75204

APPEARANCES VIA WEBEX:

For Goodman Defendants: Pulman, Cappuccio & Pullen, LLP

BY: RANDY PULMAN, ESQUIRE

ANNA KOCHUT MACFARLANE, ESQUIRE 2161 NW Military Highway, Suite 400

San Antonio, Texas 78213

Jason Goodman:

For Joseph Goodman and Whitaker Chalk Swindle & Schwartz

BY: ROBERT A. SIMON, ESQUIRE 301 Commerce Street, Suite 3500

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

For FedEx Supply Chain

Logistics and

Electronics, Inc.:

Butler Snow LLP

BY: ADAM M. LANGLEY, ESQUIRE 6075 Poplar Avenue, Suite 500

Memphis, Tennessee 38119

For Hudson Clean Energy Jordan, Lynch & Cancienne PLLC

Enterprises, LLC, and BY: MICHAEL CANCIENNE, ESQUIRE 1980 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2300 Moving Defendants: Houston, Texas 77056

For UMB Bank

Indentured Trustee BY: BRIAN CLARKE, ESQUIRI and The Majority 200 Park Avenue Noteholder Group: New York, New York 10166

BY: BRIAN CLARKE, ESQUIRE

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

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4 1 (Proceedings commenced at 2:00 p.m.) THE COURT: We've got a couple of matters on our 1:30 2 3 docket. I think I'll probably go ahead and call those in order. First case is Case Number 22 -- let me make sure I have all my prep. I do. 22-31641, Goodman Networks, Inc. 6 I'll take appearances for the record. Start with 7 those in the courtroom. 8 MR. BERGHMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 9 Thomas Berghman with Munsch Hardt for the Trustee, Scott Seidel, who's in the courtroom, as well. 10 MR. SEIDEL: Good afternoon. 11 12 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Rukavina feeling any 13 better? 14 MR. BERGHMAN: So he's actually at the Fifth Circuit on a Highland matter. So we're all waiting with bated breath 15 for the next episode. And our future CLEs, I'm sure we'll hear 17 back. THE COURT: I tagged in --18 19 MR. BERGHMAN: But he's not feeling any better. 20 But --21 THE COURT: I tagged in someone else on that. Thank 22 you. 23 MR. RUDD: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Jason Rudd on behalf of Mr. James Frinzi. 24 25 THE COURT: Good afternoon, Mr. Rudd. And now I'll

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1 Majority Senior Secured Bondholder Group and UMB as Indentured Trustee.

THE COURT: Good afternoon. And I think that's everyone that I can see on WebEx. Is there anyone else that would like to make an appearance in the Goodman matter?

All right. Mr. Berghman, gang's all here.

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

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And this should be relatively straight forward. We've got a 9019 that brings good value to this estate. We have a couple of objections, but they're really more requests for reservations of rights. We have agreed with Mr. Pulman and $12 \parallel \mathrm{Mr.}$ Simon on language to insert into the order that addresses 13 their issue.

We have a request from Fedex to just put something on the record with respect to the settlement, which I will do. And then the Bondholders have asked that we make a modification to the order that provides for the Trustee to have direction and authority to pay their piece of the proceeds based on authority in this order as opposed to filing a separate motion 20 and order.

They're hoping to make a distribution to their bondholders by year-end, which is something that I can identify with. Year-end is always a fun time in that respect. So we were --

> THE COURT: I wouldn't know anything about that.

7 1 MR. BERGHMAN: Yeah. 2 THE COURT: But please, continue. 3 MR. BERGHMAN: Yes. I think Your Honor may have had some experience with that in the past. It's fun. So we've got 4 some language that we'd like to add to the order to accommodate $6\parallel$ that. It wasn't in the motion, but there is authority in the existing -- the global 9019 that basically requires it. And it 8 seems like, you know, the sensible thing to do, Your Honor. And if the parties on the phone are okay with it, as well. 10 So in terms of evidence, Your Honor, I've got a 11 proffer for Mr. Seidel. I'd like to, just to speed things up, proffer his testimony. We've got a handful of exhibits. I had 13 put a couple binders up on --14 THE COURT: Right. 15 MR. BERGHMAN: So hopefully, Your Honor has those. 16 THE COURT: Mr. Calkins. 17 MR. BERGHMAN: And we just have a few exhibits. And after I read through the proffer, I'll move for the admission of those exhibits. But before I proceed to the proffer, maybe it makes sense to yield the podium for a minute to see if 20 anyone else wants to chime in and say anything --21 22 THE COURT: Okay. 23 MR. BERGHMAN: -- by way of opening.

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Is there anyone else who wishes to make a brief

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Berghman.

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1 opening with respect to the 9019? I'll just say for the $2 \parallel \text{record}$, I did have an opportunity to review the 9019 and the settlement, the form of order as well as the two limited objections that were filed by each of the sets of the Goodman Defendants. So I did have an opportunity to do that prior to the hearing.

Mr. Rudd? No?

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MR. RUDD: Unless Your Honor has questions.

THE COURT: No.

Mr. RUDD: I'll not say anything now.

THE COURT: Wise, wise man right there. Is there anyone on WebEx who wishes to be heard by way of opening?

MR. SIMON: Yes, Your Honor. Very briefly. Robert What Mr. Berghman said is correct. Our limited objections were with respect to protecting our client's rights under Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. And we've reached agreement with the Trustee on language to resolve those objections.

THE COURT: Okay. Excellent. And I noticed in 20∥Paragraph, I think, 7 of the settlement agreement, there was kind of an attempt to recognize that there might be other governing law providing for the credit apportionment of different relief or defense. And so I assumed, based upon the two limited objections, that probably there could be a language fix, whether it be in the settlement agreement or the order.

So I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. Pulman, anything to add in that regard?

MR. PULMAN: No, ma'am. I think we've reached

agreement on the --

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THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PULMAN: -- language that we required under

Chapter 33 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

THE COURT: The only Chapter 33 I was ever familiar with was the really, really bad one. So I learned a little bit reading that reply. So thank you.

Anyone else? Mr. Langley, Mr. Clarke?

MR. LANGLEY: Your Honor, Adam Langley for Fedex. 13 reviewed the proposed settlement with the Trustee, and they're 14 agreeable to the language in the sense that we don't have an objection. We did ask him to state on the record that Paragraph 7 of the settlement agreement intended not to prejudice FedEx's district-court litigation. And I understand that he's going to make that representation today. So with that, we don't have any further statements.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Excellent. Thank you,

21 Mr. Langley.

MR. CLARKE: And Brian Clarke for the record. have nothing further unless you have questions about the language we proposed.

THE COURT: I kind of feel like from your

1 presentations, you all think I have questions. I don't know 2 where you guys get that. But still.

Obviously, Mr. Berghman referenced a proffer. there any objection to Mr. Berghman proffering the testimony of Mr. Seidel who is here and available for cross-examination?

> MR. SIMON: No.

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THE COURT: All right.

MR. PULMAN: No, ma'am.

THE COURT: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No objection.

THE COURT: All right. Please proceed, Mr. Berghman.

MR. BERGHMAN: Very good. Thank you, Your Honor.

If called to testify, Mr. Seidel would testify that 15 his name is Scott Seidel, but he is the Chapter 7 Trustee appointed in this case. He would further testify that by the motion, he asks for authority to enter into a settlement agreement with James Frinzi, the Debtor's former CEO, under which settlement Frinzi is released of all estate claims in 20∥exchange for a payment of \$5 million by Federal Insurance Company, which is one of the Chubb companies pursuant to a D&O Policy.

The Frinzi Family Trust is not released of its obligations pursuant to a separate settlement agreement to pay \$1.2 million, which the Trustee understands from Mr. Frinzi

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1 that that payment is in process. Exhibit A in the hearing is a 2 true and correct copy of the settlement agreement which Frinzi 3 has -- Mr. Frinzi has informed us has been approved by the carrier.

Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of Mr. Frinzi's $6\parallel$ signed version of the settlement agreement. There are two main insurance policies to be considered. The present policy which covers a later period in time versus the other policy has a limit of \$5 million for D&O coverage and a separate limit of \$5 million for crime coverage. The D&O coverage part would be exhausted pursuant to this settlement, but the crime coverage part would remain.

Exhibit E is a true and correct copy of the $14 \parallel \$5$ -million policy in question. The other insurance policy referenced is a \$25-million tower with five different levels of coverage for directors and officers liability. And there's also separately at least 10, perhaps \$15 million in separate crime coverage under that tower. That policy is not at all implicated by this settlement.

Importantly to the settlement, the tower policy, the \$25 million tower policy has many exclusions including for self-dealing. That exclusion would likely apply to many of the transfers that are at issues here. It's therefore important to 24 note that the Trustee believes, based on the advice of counsel, that the larger tower policy would not be available to

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 $1 \parallel Mr$. Frinzi for D&O coverage, but it may be available for crime 2 coverage.

The Trustee would further testify that the way the settlement arose is as follows. In one of the pending lawsuits against Mr. Frinzi and others which is styled the 18920 lawsuit, the carrier was sent a Stowers demand under Texas law. Exhibit C is a copy of the live complaint in the lawsuit, and Exhibit D is a copy of the Stowers demand.

In that lawsuit, the Trustee, again based on the advice of counsel, does not believe that there are any exclusions to coverage. Rather, Mr. Frinzi transferred almost \$14 million of debtor funds to pay on a non-existing stock 13 redemption right without doing any due diligence to determine whether there was such a right, which the Trustee and the documents in evidence, there was no such right.

Thus, that lawsuit was the best chance to obtain payment under the \$5 million policy at issue here due to the timing of the underlying events and that Mr. Frinzi himself did not actually benefit from the transaction, thereby not 20 triggering an exclusion.

After several weeks of extensions and negotiations, the insurance carrier accepted the Stowers demand. But under that acceptance, the estate would be required to release all estate claims against Mr. Frinzi. Ultimately, the decision was made to go ahead and proceed on that because the settlement is

in the best interest of the estate.

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Although Mr. Frinzi's liability to the estate is likely much higher than \$5 million, I believe that the settlement is proper and in the best interest of the estate for at least the following reasons. First, Mr. Frinzi is likely judgement-proof absent insurance, as his assets are pledged or subject to the estate's lis pendens with respect to the Frinzi Family Trust real properties, and unless there are hidden offshore assets of which we're not -- which we're not aware of and no one has made us aware of. The only likely recoveries against him would come from insurance proceeds.

Additionally, since the carrier has accepted the Stowers demand, if we were to now reject that demand and obtain a judgment in excess, the maximum recovery would nevertheless still be \$5 million, and likely less in the event that policy becomes wasted or starts to waste.

Thus, in the settlement, the estate obtains the full \$5 million that otherwise we may not obtain. Then on balance, there are other sources of recovery to continue to look to for the estate. For example, in one of the lawsuits, and really the same -- we call it the MGR lawsuits, the first in time lawsuit where Mr. Frinzi was sued for embezzlement.

In that lawsuit, we've also sued the carrier under 24 \parallel the crime coverage part. That's not being affected, and we believe it should result in a large portion of the \$5 million

in coverage being paid there.

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In the 18920 lawsuit, even though Mr. Frinzi is released, all of the other defendants including Goodman entities and Mr. Zakharyayev remain as defendants, and the estate's claims against them are not released. In the Hudson lawsuit, the estate's claims remain and are not released against Goodman entities and the Auerbach family.

In the large D&O lawsuit that was filed where the principle transfer is \$44 million to AMRR, there are other defendants who did not self-deal, and there's \$25 million of D&O coverage that we'll continue to look to there. And then there is also the lawsuit against M South related to that same \$44 million transfer. That remains pending and that is not 14 released.

Therefore, the \$5 million here is likely the most that we could recover from Mr. Frinzi. And there are other defendants and lawsuits and sources of recovery which the estate intends to continue to prosecute for additional recoveries. Under the settlement, Mr. Frinzi will also be required to cooperate with discovery which the estate and the Trustee believes will actually help in the other litigation.

Your Honor, this agreement is the result of extensive arm's length negotiations, principally between the attorneys and also involving the insurance carrier. The Trustee and his counsel negotiated in good faith, and we believe that all the

1 other parties did, as well, and there are no undisclosed 2 agreements.

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And then under the Court's prior order approving a global settlement with various key creditors including the Bondholders and Fedex, some of the settlement proceeds would be $6\parallel$ payable to the Bondholders. We are now requesting that the 7 Court authorize and direct the Trustee to, in the order proving the settlement, to direct that payment.

Separately -- and that includes the first \$425,000 as payable to them to compensate them for prior use of cash collateral. And then they, likewise, receive one third of the 12 balance of the settlement, meaning that the total amount 13 payable to the Bondholders is 1,948,457. And the rest of the settlement proceeds are free and clear of property of the 15 estate.

And that would conclude the proffer of Mr. Seidel. And piggybacking on that, I'd like to move for the admission of Exhibits A through E, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Is there any objection to the admission 20 of A through E, the Trustee's exhibits found at Docket 632?

> MR. SIMON: No, Your Honor.

Hearing no objection, those exhibits are THE COURT: hereby admitted.

(Trustee's Exhibits A through E admitted into evidence) THE COURT: With respect to the proffer, Mr. Seidel,

1 you're an officer of the court, so I don't need to swear you $2 \parallel \text{in}$. Were you able to hear the proffer that was given by your 3 counsel?

MR. SEIDEL: Yes, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: And do you have any changes or anything to add to it?

MR. SEIDEL: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much, sir.

MR. SEIDEL: Thank you.

THE COURT: Is there anyone who wishes to cross-examine the Trustee with respect to the motion? (No audible response)

THE COURT: Hearing no questions, the one question 14 that I had relates to, I've obviously signed a number of orders lifting the automatic stay to allow officers and directors to reach proceeds. I haven't catalogued the various policies in my head.

Are there still policies for which that I have lifted stay that allow directors and officers to seek reimbursement of attorneys fees?

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: And I think one of those, and we had a 24∥ hearing back in May on, it's a -- it doesn't include an indemnity piece. And that's --

THE COURT: That's true.

MR. BERGHMAN: -- a \$5 million that's just for defense. And I know that one is I think being depleted for some of the lawsuits. And then in the --

THE COURT: Maybe West Chester?

MR. BERGHMAN: I think that may be right.

THE COURT: Maybe? Okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: You have a very good memory, Your I would not have remembered that. So that one is Honor. available. And the \$25 million --

THE COURT: Stack.

MR. BERGHMAN: -- stack, they're still --

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BERGHMAN: I think we're still -- hopefully we're 15 still on the first --

THE COURT: Well, given that there are former directors and officers on the phone who are not objecting, I assumed that that would probably be the case. But I was curious if that were the case. So I appreciate that. And so obviously, I understand what the Bondholders are requesting pursuant to the order.

Why don't you tell me a little bit about the agreements that were made of the language changes for Mr. Langley's clients and for the two sets of Goodman Defendants?

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

Starting with the Bondholders, the proposal is to 2 modify in Paragraph 6 which is on Page 3. It's about two-thirds of the way down.

> THE COURT: Right.

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MR. BERGHMAN: The sentence starting with, "The same $6\parallel$ will be distributed." That sentence will instead read, "The same will be distributed by the Trustee to the Indentured Trustee pursuant to this order within five business days of the effective date."

THE COURT: I was following you, and then I -- oh, are you in the settlement agreement?

12 MR. BERGHMAN: Oh. My apologies, Your Honor. I'm in 13 \parallel the order.

THE COURT: You're in the order.

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: My apologies.

THE COURT: And so it says the proceeds, 1.9. And may not be used. Okay. I see that. "The same will" -- okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: Right. So it will say, "The same will 21 \parallel be distributed by the Trustee to the indentureds Trustee pursuant to this order within five business days of the effective date." So that's in the findings. And then in the order, the ordered paragraphs, it's the third to last paragraph 25 that starts --

THE COURT: Yes.

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MR. BERGHMAN: "Ordered that 1.9 million is the cash 3 collateral of the Indentured Trustee and shall not be used by the Trustee, and shall be distributed to the Indentured Trustee within five business days of the effective date, and that the remaining three million and change shall be free and clear."

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: So that's the language agreed upon with the Bondholders to, you know, and I think it will be tight for year-end. I think it's possible. So we think this is a good and fair accommodation. If Your Honor is okay with it, we'd like to make that change.

THE COURT: Okay. And I'll approve of that change.

MR. BERGHMAN: Okay.

THE COURT: Based upon the agreement, unless is there any objection on behalf of any of the unsecured creditors to that change being made? It seems to be we're just saving a motion.

MR. BERGHMAN: We're saving a little bit of 20 resources --

> THE COURT: Exactly.

MR. BERGHMAN: -- and court time.

THE COURT: From the --

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor. Absolutely.

THE COURT: -- Trustee's perspective.

MR. BERGHMAN: Absolutely.

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THE COURT: And now with respect to Fedex?

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

Let me just make sure I pull up the correct language. So the request was that, you know, and I think this is fully 6 accurate, and I think it makes good sense. I'm happy to make the representation on the record. It's, if we're looking at Paragraph 7 of, at this time in the settlement agreement.

THE COURT: Right. I'm with you.

MR. BERGHMAN: You know, the Trustee and the estate confirm that, let's see, the second sentence beginning with "furthermore" in Paragraph 7, so that's about halfway down the 13 paragraph, that it apply specifically to Fedex in its 14 district-court lawsuit, Civil Action Number 3:23-CV-02397 pending in the Northern District, in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Texas. So specifically, that lawsuit gets the benefit of this provision.

THE COURT: Let me see. "Furthermore," okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: And it's not to actually change the language of the agreement. I'm just making the representation --

THE COURT: Oh, okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: Yeah. And we want to be -- and part of the reason, I mean, normally, we'd be happy to. But this has been approved by the carrier, and we don't want to, you

know --

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THE COURT: And so what is the change here? I've found the paragraph. I was looking --

MR. BERGHMAN: Sure.

THE COURT: -- for the reference to the case number.

6 Okay. So tell me again.

MR. BERGHMAN: The Paragraph 7 applies specifically -- sorry. The second sentence beginning with "furthermore" in Paragraph 7 of the settlement agreement, it applies specifically to FedEx and the district-court lawsuit.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BERGHMAN: Right.

THE COURT: Which is what I understood that to be.

MR. BERGHMAN: I think it already says that, but --

THE COURT: I thought it was general, but I only

thought of one other personal and direct claim that was being

17 brought.

18 MR. BERGHMAN: Yes.

THE COURT: But I guess there is the possibility of ARRIS, as well.

21 MR. BERGHMAN: Right.

THE COURT: So, okay. Appreciate that. And with

23 respect to Mr. Pulman and Mr. Simon's clients?

MR. BERGHMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

The language agreed to, and Counsel can confirm as

 $1 \parallel \text{well, is that } -- \text{ and you know, where it goes in the order I}$ $2 \parallel$ suppose is really of no moment. But perhaps near the end, 3 ordered that all rights, claims, credits, and reductions in alleged liability of any defendant in any adversary proceeding commenced by the Trustee, including all such rights under 6 Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code are preserved and retained, and are not prejudiced by this order or the agreement.

THE COURT: Okay. Excellent. And the Court has no issue with that particular language. It's what I would have expected based upon the limited objections. So the Court would be happy to have that added into the form of the order.

Is there anyone else who wishes -- anything further, 14 Mr. Berghman? I apologize.

MR. BERGHMAN: No, Your Honor. I think, due to some of the timing issues, Mr. Rukavina's going to try to upload this order imminently from the airport or wherever so that time can start running.

> THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. BERGHMAN: And so he wanted me to make sure that I asked that it be uploaded and considered by the Court at the Court's earliest convenience.

THE COURT: He didn't even have the generosity of spirit to be here.

> MR. BERGHMAN: I know. You know him.

THE COURT: No, that's fine. If it is uploaded $2 \parallel$ tonight, I will sign it. Come tomorrow morning, I'm hopping on the road --

MR. BERGHMAN: Right.

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THE COURT: -- to drive for a conference. And so it will be a lot harder for me to do it then.

MR. BERGHMAN: Right.

THE COURT: But if it's in my box tonight with the relevant changes, I'll be happy to sign it tonight.

MR. BERGHMAN: Wonderful. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're welcome.

MR. PULMAN: Your Honor?

THE COURT: Mr. Pulman?

MR. PULMAN: This is Randy Pulman. I have a suggestion on where to insert the language on Chapter 33. And that would be on Page 4 or 5 of the proposed order.

One, two, three, fourth decretal. One second. Yeah. Either at the end of the fourth decretal paragraph or after the fourth decretal. The paragraph that starts, "Ordered that nothing the proposed settlement or the agreement in no event, notwithstanding the proposed settlement or the agreement, and no event shall any claims, causes of action of the debtor, the estate, GNET, et cetera."

That the language we have discussed be put in at the 25 end of that decretal paragraph, or you could just put it as the

1 next is where I suggest that it go.

MR. BERGHMAN: I'll be sure to tell Mr. Rukavina to put it there. He'll love that.

THE COURT: He's going to tell Mr. Rukavina where to put it is what I heard.

MR. BERGHMAN:

THE COURT: Excellent. No.

MR. SEIDEL: That's my job, Your Honor.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd like to be there for that

moment.

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THE COURT: Yeah, we'd all like that recorded, 12 please.

(Laughter)

THE COURT: That is fair enough. Anything further 15 with respect to the motion?

MR. BERGHMAN: No. I just wanted to say thank you, Your Honor. And thanks to the parties for working through these issues. It's nice to have a painless hearing.

THE COURT: Well, excellent. I think this is a first 20 \parallel of no actual standing objections by the time we get to hearing. I recognize that there's probably a great deal of time that went into this. I know Mr. Rudd on behalf of Mr. Frinzi has come, he has gone, he has come back again. And we certainly, certainly appreciate your help in this.

And hopefully this is the first step in at least

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1 narrowing the disputes. Obviously, we've got disputes going on $2 \parallel$ in multiple courts, a pending motion for arbitration. able to narrow the disputes while again still having that coverage out there for the Ds and Os so that counsel is able to continue to do the good work for them, all to the better.

So with that, the Court will approve the Trustee's motion for compromise and settlement with Mr. Frinzi. As the Court said before, I did have an opportunity to review it at length prior to the hearing. And with the exception of my question on the lift stay, I found it to be in good order.

I do believe that the settlement establishes the various 9019 factors that have been laid out by the Fifth 13 Circuit. I won't bore you all with them because I've said them so many times in this particular case. So I think you know what I think on 9019. So with that, the Court will approve this compromise in settlement motion.

When you have the order ready, or when Mr. Rukavina does, if he will email Ms. Harding to let her know it was there, she will in turn let me know. Other than that, I don't know how I would ever know anything.

MR. BERGHMAN: Understood. Thank you so much.

THE COURT: Thank you, guys. I think I'll see you Friday. So no happy holidays for you.

> MR. BERGHMAN: No.

THE COURT: But for everyone else, happy holidays.

1	Take care.
2	MR. BERGHMAN: Thank you.
3	(Proceedings adjourned at 2:27 p.m.)
4	* * * *
5	
6	<u>CERTIFICATION</u>
7	I, DIPTI PATEL, court-approved transcriber, certify
8	that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official
9	electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-
10	entitled matter, and to the best of my ability.
11	
12	Toph Salel
13	
14	DIPTI PATEL, AAERT CET-997
15	Expires: December 6, 2026
16	LIBERTY TRANSCRIPTS DATE: January 14, 2025
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